

MOR

MO'RSSEL. *n. f.* [*morcellus*, low Latin, from *morfus*.]

1. A piece fit for the mouth; a mouthful.
Yet can't thou to a morsel of this feast,
Having fully din'd before.

I was *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*

A morsel for a monarch. *Shakefp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*

And me his parent would full soon devour

For want of other prey, but knows that I

Should prove a bitter morsel, and his bane. *Milton.*

Every morsel to a satisfied hunger, is only a new labour to

a tired digestion. *South's Sermons.*

He boils the flesh,

And lays the mangled morsels in a dish. *Dryden.*

A wretch is pris'ner made,

Whose flesh torn off by lumps, the ravenous foe

In morsels cut, to make it farther go. *Tate's Juvenal.*

A letter to the keeper of the lion requested that it may be

the first morsel put into his mouth. *Addison.*

2. A piece; a meal.

On these herbs, and fruits and flow'rs,

Feed first; on each beast next, and fish and fowl,

No homely morsels! *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*

A dog crossing a river with a morsel of flesh in his mouth,

fast, as he thought, another dog under the water, upon the

very same adventure. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

3. A small quantity. Not proper.

Of the morsels of native and pure gold, he had seen some

weighed many pounds. *Boyle.*

MO'RSURE. *n. f.* [*morfura*, Fr. *morfura*, Latin.] The act of

biting. *MORT. n. f.* [*morte*, French.]

1. A time founded at the death of the game.

To be making practis'd smiles,

As in a looking-glass; and to sigh as 'twere

The mort o' the deer; oh that is entertainment

My bosom likes not. *Milton's Winter's Tale.*

2. [*Mort*, Hollandic.] A great quantity. Not in elegant use.

MO'RTAL. *adj.* [*mortalis*, Lat. *mortal*, Fr.]

1. Subject to death; doomed sometime to die.

Nature does require

Her times of preservation, which, perforce,

I her frail son amongst my brethren mortal

Must give my attendance to. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*

This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal

must put on immortality. *1 Cor. xv. 53.*

Heav'nly powers, where shall we find such love!

Which of ye will be mortal to redeem

Man's mortal crime; and just, th' unjust to save. *Milton.*

Know,

The day thou eat'st thereof, my sole command

Transgress, inevitably thou shalt die;

From that day mortal: and this happy state

Shalt lose. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. viii.*

2. Deadly; destructive; procuring death.

Come all you spirits

That tend on mortal thoughts, unfix me here,

And fill me from the crown to th' toe, top full

Of cruelty. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

The mortals poisons practis'd by the West Indians, have

some mixture of the blood, fat, or flesh of man. *Bacon.*

The fruit

Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste

Brought death into the world, and all our woe. *Milton.*

Some circumstances have been great discouragers of trade,

and others are absolutely mortal to it. *Temple.*

Hope not, base man! unquestion'd hence to go,

For I am Palamon, thy mortal foe. *Dryden.*

3. Bringing death.

Safe in the hand of one disposing pow'r,

Or in the natal, or the mortal hour. *Pope's Essay on Man.*

4. Human; belonging to man.

They met me in the day of success; and I have learned

by the perfected report, they have more in them than mortal

knowledge. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

Macbeth

Shall live the lease of nature, pay his breath

To time and mortal custom. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

The voice of God

To mortal ear is dreadful; They beseech,

That Moses might report to them his will,

And terror cease. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*

Success, the mark no mortal wit,

Or surest hand can always hit. *Butler.*

No one enjoyment but is liable to be lost by ten thousand

accidents, out of all mortal power to prevent. *South's Sermon.*

5. Extreme; violent. A low word.

The birds were in a mortal apprehension of the beetles, till

the sparrow reasoned them into understanding. *L'Estrange.*

The nymph grew pale and in a mortal fright,

Spent with the labour of so long a flight;

And now despairing, cast a mournful look

Upon the streams. *Dryden.*

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MO'RTAL. *n. f.*

1. Man; human being.

Warn poor mortals left behind.

2. This is often used in ludicrous language. *Titch.*

I can behold no mortal now;

For what's an eye without a brow? *Prior.*

MORTALITY. *n. f.* [from *mortal*.]

1. Subjection to death; state of a being subject to death.

I point out mistakes in life and religion, that we might

guard against the springs of error, guilt, and sorrow, which

surround us in every state of mortality. *Watts's Logic.*

2. Death.

I beg mortality,

Rather than life preserv'd with infamy. *Shakefp.*

Gladly would I meet

Mortality my sentence. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*

3. Power of destruction.

Mortality and mercy in Vienna

Live in thy tongue and heart. *Shakefp. Meas. for Meas.*

4. Frequency of death.

The rise of keeping those accounts first began in the year

1592, being a time of great mortality. *Grant.*

5. Human nature.

A single vision so transports them, that it makes up the

happines of their lives; mortality cannot bear it often. *Dryd.*

Take these tears, mortality's relief,

And till we share your joys, forgive our grief. *Pope.*

MO'RTALLY. *adv.* [from *mortal*.]

1. Irrecoverably; to death.

In the battle of Landen you were not only dangerously,

but, in all appearance, mortally wounded. *Dryden.*

2. Extremely; to extremity.

Adrian mortally envied poets, painters, and artificers, in

works wherein he had a vein to excel. *Bacon's Essay.*

Know all, who would pretend to my good grace,

I mortally dislike a damning face. *Granville.*

MO'RTUARY. *n. f.* [*mortuarium*, Lat. *mortier*, Fr.]

1. A strong vessel in which materials are broken by being pound-

ed with a pestle.

Except you could Bray Christendom in a mortar, and mould

it into a new paste, there is no possibility of an holy war.

The action of the diaphragm and muscles serves for the

commination of the meat in the stomach by their constant

agitation upwards and downwards, resembling the pounding

of materials in a mortar. *Roy on Creation.*

2. A short wide cannon out of which bombs are thrown.

Those arms which for nine centuries had brav'd

The wrath of time on antique stone engrav'd,

Now torn by mortars stand yet undefac'd. *Granville.*

On nobler trophies by thy valour rais'd.

MO'RTAR. *n. f.* [*morter*, Dutch; *mortier*, French.] Cement

made of lime and sand with water, and used to join floors

or bricks.

Mortar, in architecture, is a preparation of lime and sand

mixed up with water, serving as a cement, and used by mas-

ons and bricklayers in building of walls of stone and brick.

Wolius observes, that the sand should be dry and sharp, so

as to prick the hands when rubbed, yet not earthy, so as to

foul the water it is washed in: he also finds fault with mas-

ons and bricklayers as committing a great error, in letting

their lime slacken and cool before they make up their mortar,

and also in letting their mortar cool and die before they use

it; therefore he advises, that if you expect your work to be

well done, and to continue long, to work up the lime quick,

and but a little at a time, that the mortar may not lie long

before it be used.

I will tread this unbolted villain into mortar, and daub the

wall of a jakes with him. *Shakefp. King Lear.*

They had brick for stone, and slime for mortar. *Gen. xi. 3.*

Lime hot out of the kiln mixed soft with water, putting

sand to it, will make better mortar than other. *Mortimer.*

MO'RTGAGE. *n. f.* [*mort and gage*, French.]

1. A dead pledge; a thing put into the hands of a creditor.

The estate runs out, and mortgagee are made,

Their fortune ruin'd, and their fame betray'd. *Dryden.*

The Romans do not seem to have known the secret of pa-

per credit, and securities upon mortgage. *Arbutnot.*

The broker,

Bent on some mortgage, to avoid reproach,

He seeks bye-fires, and faves th' expensive coach. *Gay.*

2. The state of being pledged.

The land is given in mortgage only, with full intention to

be redeemed within one year. *Bacon's Office of Alienation.*

TO MO'RTGAGE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To pledge; to put

to pledge; to make over to a creditor as a security.

Let men contrive how they disentangle their mortgaged

souls. *Decay of Piety.*

They make the widows mortgage'd ox their prey. *Saunders.*

Their not abating of their expensive way of living, has

forced them to mortgage their best manors. *Arbutnot.*

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MORTGAGE. *n. f.* [from *mortgage*.] He that takes or receives

a mortgage.

An act may pass for publick registries of land, by which

all purchasers or mortgagees may be secured of all monies they

lay out. *Temple's Miscel.*

MO'RTGAGER. *n. f.* [from *mortgage*.] He that gives a mort-

gage.

MORTIFEROUS. *adj.* [*mortifer*, Latin.] Fatal; deadly; de-

structive.

What is it but a continued perpetuated voice from heaven,

to give men no rest in their sins, no quiet from Christ's im-

portunity, till they awake from the lethargick sleep, and arise

from so dead, so mortiferous a state, and permit him to give

them life. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

These murmurings, like a mortiferous herb, are poisonous

even in their first spring. *Government of the Tongue, f. 10.*

MORTIFICATION. *n. f.* [*mortification*, Fr. from *mortif*.]

1. The state of corrupting, or losing the vital qualities; gan-

grene.

It appeareth in the gangrene, or mortification of flesh, either

by opiates, or intense colds. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N. 333.*

My griefs ferment and rage,

Nor less than wounds immedicable,

Rankle and fester, and gangrene,

To black mortification. *Milton's Agonist. l. 617.*

2. Destruction of active qualities.

Inquire what gives impediment to union or restitution,

which is called mortification; as when quicksilver is mortified

with turpentine. *Bacon's Physical Remains.*

3. The act of subduing the body by hardships and macerations.

A diet of some fish is more rich and alkalescent than that

of flesh, and therefore very improper for such as practise mor-

tification. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

4. Humiliation; subjection of the passions.

The mortification of our lusts has something in it that is

troublesome, yet nothing that is unreasonable. *Tillotson.*

5. Vexation; trouble.

It is one of the most vexatious mortifications of a studious

man, to have his thoughts disordered by a tedious visit.

L'Estrange.

We had the mortification to lose the sight of Munich, Augs-

burg, and Ratisbon. *Addison on Italy.*

TO MO'RTIFY. *v. a.* [*mortifier*, French.]

1. To destroy vital qualities.

What gives impediment to union or restitution is called

mortification, as when quicksilver is mortified with turpentine

or spirit. *Bacon.*

He mortified pearls in vinegar, and drunk them up. *Hakew.*

Oil of tartar per deliquium has a great faculty to find out

and mortify acid spirits. *Boyle.*

3. To subdue inordinate passions.

The breath no sooner left his father's body,

But that his wildness mortified in him,

Scem'd to die too. *Shakefp. Henry V.*

Their dear causes

Would to the bleeding and the grim alarm

Excite the mortified man. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

Suppress thy knowing pride,

Mortify thy learned lust,

Vain are thy thoughts, while thou thyself art dust. *Prior.*

He modestly conjectures,

Which help'd to mortify his pride. *Swift.*

4. To macerate or harass the body to compliance with the

mind.

We mortify ourselves with fast, and think we fare coarsely

if we abstain from flesh.